



General Membership Minutes

March 21, 2025

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM CST

Pharr EMS Headquarters
(3000 N Cage Blvd, Pharr, TX 78577)

Attendees: Please contact the TRAC-V office at (956) 364-2022 regarding meeting attendance.

I. Call to order – Carlos Palacio, MD

Carlos Palacio called the meeting to order at 12:13 PM.

II. Welcome and Introductions of new members

Introductions of new members attending a TRAC-V General Membership meeting were made.

III. Review and approval of previous minutes – December 6, 2024

A motion to accept the minutes made by Danny Ramirez and seconded by Aaron Lopes. All in favor. Motion passed.

IV. Board Report:

a) Board Meetings – Carlos Palacio, MD

Carlos Palacio provided an overview of the board meeting held on January 24, 2025. The first item of the agenda included elections for TRAC-V board positions of Cameron County Non-911 EMS, Hidalgo County 911 EMS, Willacy County EMS. After those elections were finalized, the board proceeded to re-elect both Carlos Palacio as Board Chair and Cat Domian as Board Secretary for their 2nd terms.

Following the elections, the TRAC-V Executive Director provided an update on EMS eligibility for County Funds, the SB8 process to return funds to DSHS, ESO EMS repository update, Quarterly Blood drives with South Texas Blood and

Tissue, and the need to offer virtual attendance at RAC meetings per new RAC rules in 157.123. The Board also reviewed the DSHS Audit Report and approved the Corrective Action Plan prepared by Nathan Ramon for submission.

b) Financial Report – Rene Perez

FY25

RAC Systems Development - \$57,500

EMS RAC - \$40,946

EMS/CO - \$119,301

SB8 - \$9,370

EI - \$105,254

The financial report was provided by the Board Treasurer, Rene Perez. The financial balances provided represent the amount remaining in the Fiscal Year for each DSHS grant TRACV receives as of March 1, 2025. Mr. Perez reviewed the cash disbursements for the last couple of months and the accounts receivable aging summary. EMS/County funds will begin the distribution process soon and more revenue will be generated through the collection of TRAC-V Membership dues and Symposium sponsorships as planning for that event continues. TRAC-V is in good financial standing and has no debts.

A copy of the financial report can be requested by contacting the TRAC-V office at (956) 364-2022.

V. Executive Director's Report

a) Update/Status on State Reports

Nathan Ramon provided an overview of recent reports submitted to DSHS for state-related contracts. The Final SB8 expenditure report and narrative was submitted on February 14th. DSHS has already sent TRAC-V a remittance form for remaining SB8 funds and we will work on mailing those back this week.

Next Quarterly RAC reports are due on March 31st and are being finalized to reflect this quarter's expenses and activity.

b) Other RAC initiatives and activities

- TRAC-V continues to push Pulsara utilization for training, everyday transports, and large scale events. Daily incidents were created for the RGV Livestock show and Rodeo and currently being worked on for Spring Break festivities at South Padre Island. Last week, TRAC-V organized daily calls with EMS agencies, hospitals, CC OEM, TDEM, NWS, CCPH, and EMTF to discuss daily situational updates to prepare for an influx of patients from SPI due to Spring Break related events.

- TRAC-V has helped coordinate information sharing between U.S. CBP and hospitals & EMS providers based on new regulations and enforcement due to Executive Orders and federal mandates
- TRAC-V started work on RAC Self Assessment with PreHospital Committee to score RAC functions on 0-5 scale – due by Aug 29 as a deliverable in our DSHS contract
 - Will be working with the trauma committee to score the RAC on modules as well
- To expand our regional WB capabilities and create a local donor pool, TRAC-V is working with STBTC to host quarterly blood drives, open to the community, and STBTC will automatically screen for WB candidates so we can target those donors at future drives and reduce our reliance on blood coming from out of the RGV
 - The first drive is on TUESDAY, March 25th, in partnership with the Harlingen Chamber
- TRAC-V will have a booth at the STAHC next week and encourage any people who don't know what the TRAC is to stop by and chat with us on what we do

VI. GETAC and TETAF Update – Carlos Palacio, MD / Nathan Ramon

- The Pre-Hospital Whole Blood Task Force continues to meet and is currently coordinating efforts to seek legislative funding of approximately \$4 million for pre-hospital whole blood implementation across the state. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has acknowledged the effectiveness of WB transfusion in the prehospital setting and is working on traffic safety framework to help aid and guide this process.
- The Injury Prevention committee is going to champion and encourage RACs to increase their Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) numbers. RAC V was identified as one of the high priority focus areas with a population ratio of 1 CPST to 2,847 people.
- The Trauma Committee shared insight into the Joint Trauma System (JTS) of the Department of Defense and their efforts to coordinate communication with RACs and RMOCs in border states to integrate military and civilian trauma systems. TRAC-V has met and discussed regional trauma capabilities with DoD representatives and will continue to aid their efforts.
- The Stroke committee continues to discuss their stroke transportation resource document and flowchart for rural, urban, suburban areas of the state, in addition to a pediatric specific stroke plan.
- The Pediatric Committee continues to focus on pedi readiness in both the ED and in EMS agencies, sharing virtual education opportunities and

encouraging stakeholders to take advantage of the sim trainings being provided by PRISMs (formerly R-PECCs).

VII. EMTF and HPP Coalition Report – John Phillips / Bernie Palacios

- Bernie Palacios is currently attending the Bataan Memorial Death March in New Mexico but gave a brief sit rep on current EMTF activations and deployments.

VIII. TRAC-V Sub-Committee Reports

a) Allied Health – Jennifer Volcy & Michael Sanchez

The committee will begin regular meetings to finalize speakers and the agenda for the 2025 Symposium. The registration link is already available and Committee tracks will assist TRAC-V with gathering sponsors.

b) Cardiac – Melissa Aguilera & Jennifer Pena

The committee successfully completed a Heart Attack Awareness and Bystander CPR public campaign by creating an advertisement and displaying them at Valley International Airport in Harlingen.

c) Disaster Preparedness – Carlos Palacio & Danny Ramirez

The committee will look to meet in the next couple of months pending additional information on potential FEMA training with hospitals and availability of education courses through TEEX.

d) Injury Prevention / Education – Cassandra Bravo & Bianca Hayes

The committee has completed numerous Stop the Bleed events, ATV/Motorcycle Awareness campaigns, and resource fairs. The committee continues to seek volunteers and is putting together a monthly calendar of events to keep the committee on track.

e) Perinatal / NICU / Maternal – Annabelle Salinas & Adriana Cantu

The committee continues to evaluate Golden Hour data by sending each hospitals data to Fernandette at TRAC-V to compile and generate regional averages. Hospitals going through surveys also share their experiences.

f) Pre-Hospital – Gustavo Ramirez & Charlie DeLeon

The committee continues to make progress on the EMS Mental Health project and has met with a few clinicians in the RGV to secure their help.

Additionally, the committee will work on addressing any lack of PCR submission to hospitals by delinquent EMS agencies.

g) South Texas Trauma Coordinators – Jennifer Volcy & Wesley Milum

The committee continues to review 2 hour major transfer trauma cases in an effort to reduce time to transfer and improve the process throughout the region.

h) Stroke – Gene Danugrao

The committee has shifted focus from it's community outreach campaign through the BEFAST and RAPIDO magnets to securing speakers and increasing attendance at the upcoming Symposium in May.

i) TMD & EMS Advisory – Eric Panzer

The committee did not reach quorum in December and will work on scheduling another meeting in the next couple of months to review 2024 data.

IX. Open Forum

X. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:14 PM.